

PATHOLOGY OF PERIPHERAL NERVE. By A. K. Asbury and P. C. Johnson. (Pp 311; illustrated. £15.00). Volume 9 in series. Major Problems in Pathology. Philadelphia, London, Toronto: W. B. Saunders. 1978.

As with so many studies requiring close clinicopathological correlation and specialised techniques, many of the major contributions to peripheral nerve pathology have been made by clinicians rather than pathologists. As a result, the general pathologist has tended to ignore many of the recent advances in peripheral nerve pathology and trainees in pathology often fail to appreciate that with relatively simple techniques, much information can be gained from the histological study of peripheral nerves.

Pathology of Peripheral Nerve is written with the general pathologist in mind and most of the histological illustrations are of paraffin-bedded material, conventionally stained. The authors devote a chapter to the histology of normal peripheral nerve and give the special methods required for its study. The chapter on basic pathological mechanisms is written with great clarity and sets the background for the further chapters on the various forms of neuropathy. A fair balance between the common and the rare is maintained and recently recognised entities, such as giant axonal neuropathy, are mentioned and appropriate references cited. Among the most useful chapters is that giving aetiological classifications of peripheral nerve disease and that dealing with laboratory techniques.

This volume is in competition with several other monographs on the same subject all of which have appeared relatively recently. Asbury and Johnson however deal with this specialised subject in a particularly clear and concise style and this book must be strongly recommended to all general histopathologists, to neuropathologists and as a reference book in laboratories. It is also valuable reading for neurologists, neurosurgeons and neurophysiologists.

I.V.A.

PHARMACOLOGY OF THE EYE. By Pauline Thomas, B.Sc. (Ppv+120; figs. 23. £3.30). London: Lloyd-Luke. 1978.

THIS small text presents a concise account of those drugs used in ophthalmic practice, and describes the various ocular side effects of systematically administered preparations. The book is well written and divided into sections on basic pharmacology, drugs used in the eye and drug actions and interactions. A useful glossary is provided for quick reference.

Myotics, cycloplegics, mydriatics, local anaesthetics, staining agents, anti-microbial compound and anti-inflammatory agents are discussed in some detail. Several figures and useful tables, summarising drug actions are presented. Several important groups of ophthalmic drugs are omitted, e.g. anti fungal and anti-parasitical preparations.

The value of this text unfortunately is reduced by a number of incorrect medical statements, particularly relating to the effects of parasympathomimetic drugs on accommodation, the relationship of atropine to the formation of anterior synechia, the use of sulphonamides to treat scleritis and episcleritis and flourescein antiography.

The pharmacology of most ocular drugs however, is succinctly and clearly presented and I believe there is much of value in this text for the practising ophthalmic optician and medical student.

D.B.A.

SYMPTOMS, SIGNS AND SYNDROMES. By B. Champney, S.R.N., R.N.T. and F. G. Smiddy, M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S. (Pp 196. £1.95). London: Bailliere Tindall. 1979.

IT is suggested by the authors that nursing and other ancillary staff with their close and enduring contact with patients have an invaluable opportunity to observe the changing